



**Marion County**  
OREGON

For immediate release: August 19, 2009

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**Marion County Board of Commissioners**  
**Respond to Sheriff Russ Isham's Resignation**

SALEM- At 9:00 AM, the Marion County Board of Commissioners received notice of Sheriff Russ Isham's intent to resign. Sheriff Isham cited personal reasons for resigning his position, effective at 5:00 PM on August 24th. Undersheriff Jason Myers will maintain the executive authority and duties of the office.

The Board of Commissioners was made aware of an investigation by the Oregon Department of Justice late last week. The Board of Commissioners was not involved in the investigation process and directs all questions pertaining to the investigation to the Department of Justice.

"Russ Isham made tremendous contributions to Marion County as sheriff," Commissioner Janet Carlson said. "He worked with the commissioners to gain efficiencies that stretched public safety dollars. He understood the importance of working together with other elected officials to achieve the best public policy for citizens. His talents and commitment will be missed."

"I am greatly disappointed in this situation," said Commissioner Sam Brentano. "However we have an amazingly talented group of men and women at the Sheriff's Office who will keep their department moving forward without any disruption in service or professional focus. I'm very proud of the work they do."

"While this is a regrettable situation and I am personally saddened, I want to recognize the wonderful men and women dedicated to serving the public in the Sheriff's Office," said Commissioner Patti Milne. "They have my appreciation and full support. As Undersheriff Jason Myers takes over executive authority of the Sheriff's Office, and we move through a transition period, I am confident that public safety services will continue to meet the needs of the people of Marion County."

The Board of Commissioners will be meeting at 10:00 AM on Monday, August 24 to establish a process and timeline to fill the vacancy for the elected office of Marion County Sheriff. More information on the next steps of this process will be shared as it develops.

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